

Unemployment in the industries such as those in Maiden is currently low. Releases to the press by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission in October, 1968, indicated that unemployment in the state in the major industries of lumber, construction, furniture, textiles, hosiery, and machinery had resulted in the lowest industrial unemployment rate in 23 years.* For recent years, the percentage of the civilian work force in Catawba County that was unemployed has averaged as follows: 1967, 3.7%; 1966, 3.0%; and 1965, 3.7%.**

Occupations

Occupational information for Catawba County was given in the 1960 census data, although this information was not itemized for Maiden. Male occupations for the county in the primary categories included operatives and kindred workers (largely textiles), 32.0%; craftsmen, foremen and kindred workers (includes workers such as brickmasons, electricians, mechanics, metal craftsmen, and other craftsmen such as furniture workers), 21.5%; and managers, officials and proprietors, 9.2%. Primary female occupations in the county were operatives and kindred workers, 5.0%; and clerical and kindred workers, 15.0%.

Occupational data is not available for Maiden for 1960 but there is some relation between occupations locally and the township area Employment by Industry Table 6. Here again, the standout occupations are in textiles at 32.2%, furniture and wood products at 18.8%, with a distant third place in retail trade at 9.6%.

Current occupational trends in the Maiden area fall into

*Source: The Hickory Daily Record, October 22, 1968.

**Source: N.C. Work Force Estimates by County and State, North Carolina Employment Security Commission, August, 1968.